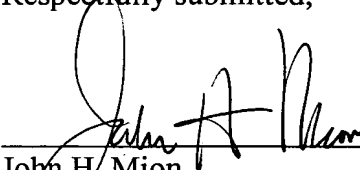


PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

REMARKS

The Examiner is respectfully requested to examine the new claims 9-16 contained in this Preliminary Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John H. Mion  
Registration No. 18,879

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC  
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20037-3213  
(202) 663-7901

WASHINGTON OFFICE

**23373**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: June 15, 2005